

HAVING slipped to their lowest place in the Isthmian League table for several seasons, Wycombe Wanderers will be going all out to get back on to winning form when they travel to Hitchin tonight (Tuesday) with a chance of their third double of the season (writes Stuart Earp).

After Saturday's 2-0 defeat at home to Tooting and Mitcham, it seems Wanderers can only improve. And although goalkeeper John Maskell will be out for a month, they have Keith Jameson, Tony Horseman and Dave Bullock back to fitness.

Changes seem inevitable in midfield — the sources of Wycombe's troubles on Saturday. Jameson will probably return for Hutchinson or Gane while Dave Bullock could also come back into the side. Kevin O'Brien will take over from Maskell.

Whether Delaney or Olson wears the number 5 shirt depends on how Delaney came through the game for Great Britain in their friendly against Plymouth Argyle last night (Monday). Also in the side was Wycombe's Mick Cooper.

Hitchin have been most inconsistent all season and typical of their performances have been their last two results. On Tuesday they drew 1-1 at Southbury Road, Enfield but went down 2-1 at home to Barking on Saturday.

Paul Giggle, a regular with the club for many years and often a source of worry to Wycombe's defence with his skilful running and speed, has left for Slough Town. But while Giggle joined the Rebels, another player joined them from the local Athenians — Ray Hill.

Wanderers will remember Hill well after their 3-0 defeat in the final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup against

Slough at Maidenhead last term. Hill scored twice in the last ten minutes to send Wycombe on the road to defeat.

## BLUES EIGHTH

### ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

(Up to 13/11/72)

|             | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | Ps. |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Hendon      | 24 | 20 | 4  | 0  | 55 | 11 | 44  |
| W'stow A.   | 24 | 13 | 7  | 4  | 40 | 20 | 33  |
| Enfield     | 23 | 12 | 6  | 5  | 53 | 26 | 30  |
| W. & H'm.   | 19 | 12 | 3  | 4  | 26 | 12 | 27  |
| T. & M. U.  | 21 | 11 | 5  | 5  | 41 | 20 | 27  |
| Leatherh'd  | 23 | 11 | 5  | 7  | 38 | 20 | 27  |
| Kingstonian | 22 | 11 | 5  | 6  | 28 | 28 | 27  |
| Wyc. Wds.   | 21 | 12 | 2  | 7  | 34 | 17 | 26  |
| Sutton U.   | 22 | 10 | 6  | 6  | 33 | 24 | 26  |
| B. Stort'd  | 19 | 9  | 7  | 3  | 26 | 14 | 25  |
| Dulwich H.  | 24 | 10 | 5  | 9  | 35 | 33 | 25  |
| Woking      | 22 | 10 | 4  | 8  | 33 | 30 | 24  |
| Ilford      | 22 | 9  | 5  | 11 | 35 | 43 | 23  |
| Leytonst'n. | 22 | 7  | 7  | 8  | 30 | 30 | 21  |
| Hayes       | 20 | 8  | 4  | 8  | 30 | 24 | 20  |
| Barking     | 21 | 7  | 4  | 10 | 30 | 31 | 18  |
| Hitchin T.  | 23 | 7  | 4  | 12 | 32 | 44 | 18  |
| St. Albans  | 23 | 5  | 4  | 14 | 24 | 42 | 14  |
| Bromley     | 23 | 2  | 5  | 16 | 13 | 41 | 9   |
| Cor. Cas.   | 18 | 2  | 3  | 13 | 12 | 44 | 7   |
| Oxford C.   | 24 | 1  | 5  | 18 | 13 | 68 | 7   |
| Clapton     | 21 | 1  | 4  | 16 | 17 | 56 | 6   |

Leading scorer with Hitchin is Trevor Williams, who has been training with the Welsh squad. Williams has 13 goals to his credit, coming from midfield positions this season. Their other England man is Hughie Pratt, who has been training with Charles Hughes squad.

Tonight's team will probably include third choice keeper Ian Richardson as the other two goalkeepers are both injured. Another player familiar to Wycombe is Tony Martin, who was one of the few players to impress in Hitchin's 4-0 defeat at Loakes Park on September 19.

The new six-a-side competition organised by Wanderers starts tomorrow (Wednesday)

with eight clubs competing in the first round kicking off at 7 p.m. at Loakes Park. The first draw is: Winchmore Hill v Chesham Moor. Richardson Rovers v Trades and Social. Hazlemere v R.A.F.. High Wycombe and Marlow Rangers v Tanco.

The matches are of 10 minutes each way and a charge of 10p admission is necessary to cover the running costs. There will be four groups of eight and the winners of each section will meet to decide the eventual winners of the competition.

Wycombe Secretary Bert Crump announced this week that the club will be charging reduced gate prices for the two friendlies against Loughborough College and Carnegie College on November 22 and 29 respectively. The charge is likely to be 20p. On November 27, Loakes Park will be the venue for a game between the Berks and Bucks Senior Schools XI v Essex Senior Schools.

Our dismal home record continues to show no signs of improvement. Against League champions Wycombe on Tuesday night we never looked capable of stopping the rot even though some members of their side were playing their second match in 24 hours having turned out for an F.A. Amateur XI at Plymouth the night before.

It might have been different if the Wycombe goalkeeper hadn't made two splendid saves early in the game: first reaching Trevor Williams' overhead kick and then tipping a flying header from Tony Martin over the bar. After that we seldom got a look in, for although Wycombe are not the powerful team they have been these past few seasons they are still a fine footballing side.

We held on until the interval without our two front runners ever looking threatening, but Wycombe's superiority finally told in the second half. They took the lead with a speculative shot from Jameson which crept into the net via a post with Ian Richardson deceived into thinking the ball was going wide.

He had no chance with the visitors' second goal, however, which came when Keith Searle burst through the middle and swept the ball home in brilliant fashion. That goal effectively killed our challenge and we never looked like staging a recovery. It was one of our less inspiring performances.